

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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19th April 2018

CONSULTATION REGARDING THE HAREFIELD ACADEMY'S PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ITS BOARDING PROVISION

The Harefield Academy wishes to cease provision of a state boarding facility from 31st July 2019. As this is deemed a 'significant change' in provision and as such, in line with DfE requirements, there is a need to consult with key stakeholders over this process for a minimum period of 4 weeks. Since our stakeholders for this context span a range of Local Authorities as well as serving overseas students, we are extending the consultation to a 6 week period.

Please read the information below which will be available on the website from 19th April 2018 to 8th June 2018. If you have any comments, please email them to headteacher@theharefieldacademy.org prior to the consultation closing date of 8th June 2018.

This document is being sent directly to the following stakeholders and remains open on the website to all other audiences for the duration of the consultation period:

- All parents/carers of current students at The Harefield Academy, including boarders (sent via InTouch).
- All secondary and primary schools in Hillingdon (sent via email to all Heads).
- The Local Authority (sent to the Director of Education for distribution as required).
- All staff at The Academy, to include all Boarding staff (sent via internal email).
- All Governors and Trustees of The Academy. (Consultation proposal considered and agreed in an extraordinary meeting of the Local Governing Body, current Trustees and Trustees of the Trust we are in the process of joining. The consultation document has subsequently been emailed to all stated parties for further consideration.)
- Other LAs served by boarding students (sent to the Director of Education in Ealing, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, London Borough of Hounslow and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead).
- Relevant children's services where boarders are known (sent to the Head of Social Care in Ealing and Hertfordshire).
- Active Spanish agency representing current boarders (sent by email).
- Members of the local community in Harefield. (Raised at a meeting of the local residents' association and distributed by the secretary to this group via email circulation group. Also published to the website.)

Rationale

Since 2011, The Harefield Academy has had a residential Boarding House. This Boarding House can accommodate forty six students. Over the last few years we have had wonderful groups of students from many different nationalities reside with us. These students have added to our vibrant school community. They have fully engaged with each other and also from time to time have supported "short term stays" of local students who have at that time needed the extra support and care a residential Boarding House offers.



The Boarding House is a standalone enterprise meaning The Academy does not financially support the Boarding House. Likewise any income into the Boarding House cannot be transferred over to finance the school. For the Boarding House to be financially secure it requires at least 35 fully paid students in residence all year long.

Since 2015 and especially since the initial Brexit vote, our number of students has declined. The decline in numbers over the last two years is not sustainable and as guardians of the Boarding House we have to make a decision to either sustain a loss year on year or to close the Boarding House.

The Boarding House originally drew in a larger number of British students aligned to the Sporting Specialism supported by the main school. Further to the removal of specialist funding for schools, we are no longer able to offer the degree of bespoke sports coaching that lends itself to students travelling distance to reside in Harefield for their education. Our projections and recent trends therefore indicate continually declining numbers for boarding deeming its retention financially unviable and unsustainable.

The proposed closure on 31st July 2019 would enable current boarders in Years 10 or 12 to complete their programme of study without interruption. Any parties interested in boarding for the first time in 2018-19 would be advised that the provision would be on offer for one year only.

In proposing this closure we do not wish in any way to negatively influence any child's education and therefore have decided to go to consultation early. We do however wish to avoid a situation where numbers become so unviable that closure may need to occur at short notice. We also wish to avoid a situation where in order to maintain viability, the cost of residing would increase to such an extent it becomes prohibitive to potential boarders.

Yours sincerely,

**Tash Moriarty,
Headteacher**